

2. Little Levels Academy.—This institution was established in Pocahontas county, in 1842, under a charter granted by the State of Virginia. The first principal was Reverend Joseph Brown, who served in that capacity for seven years. He was succeeded by Reverend M. D. Dunlap, who remained at the head of the institution for eleven years, or until the war began and the school closed. In 1865, the county purchased the building, since which time it has been used for public school purposes. This was the first school of high order in the county and notwithstanding the short period of its existence, it left its impression on the educational interests of this section of the State.

3. A Valuable Historical Work.—In 1845, Henry Howe published his "Historical Collections of Virginia." It was printed at Charleston, South Carolina, and was the most valuable work ever issued treating of the history of Virginia. Its author was born in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1816, and coming to Virginia, he traversed almost the entire State, visiting nearly every county then existing and now embraced in West Virginia. He collected a vast amount of valuable matter, much of which would have perished had he not rescued it at the time of

a Buffalo Academy. In 1880, he, with Philip Doddridge, represented Brooke county in the Constitutional Convention of Virginia, and ten years later he saw the fulfillment of a long cherished hope—the founding of Buffalo College. His life was filled with arduous and varied labors. He taught, traveled and preached at home and abroad, and wrote early and late. He died in 1880, aged eighty years.

his tour over the State. The author died at Columbus, Ohio, in 1893.

4. **West Virginians in the Mexican War.**—When the war with Mexico came in 1846, Virginia was ready, and under the "Ten Regiment Act" of Congress a company was enlisted in the counties bordering on the Ohio, which rendezvoused at Guyandotte in Cabell county, whence it proceeded to Newport Barracks where it was mustered into service and attached to the Eleventh United States Infantry, Colonel Ramsey, commanding. Proceeding to New Orleans, the company landed with General Scott at Vera Cruz and marched to the City of Mexico.

5. **United States Senator, Isaac Pennybacker,**

dies at Washington.—January 12th, 1847, Isaac Pennybacker, member of the United States Senate, died at Washington. He was born in Shenandoah county, Virginia, September 3d, 1805, and having studied law, he came to Franklin, the county-seat of Pendleton, now in West Virginia, where he practiced his



ISAAC PENNYBACKER.

profession. In 1840, President Van Buren appointed him judge of the United States Court for the district west of the Alleghany mountains in the State of Virginia, he having previously removed to Harrisonburg in the Shenandoah Valley. December 3d, 1845, he received his certificate of election by the Assembly of

Virginia, to a seat in the United States Senate, in which position he was serving at the time of his death.

6. **The Founding of Mount De Chantal Female College.**—This institution was founded in 1848, by Rev. Richard Vincent Whelan. The present site of



REV. R. V. WHELAN.*

the institution was selected in 1865, and under the direction of the founder the buildings were erected, they having been designed by Bartberger, an architect of Pittsburg. They stand on an eminence, distant two miles from Wheeling, from which is presented a view of the valley of Wheeling creek, which is skirted on all sides by lofty hills.

7. **West Virginia's Claim to the Jurisdiction of the Ohio River.**—In 1784, Virginia ceded to the Central Government all the title and claim which the State possessed to the territory northwest of the Ohio river, but this did not include the river named. For many years after the admission of Ohio into the Union in 1803, the jurisdiction over that river was a matter of dispute, and varied were the opinions of eminent lawyers concerning it.

* Rev. Richard Vincent Whelan was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in the year 1809; attended college at Emmettsburg, in the same State, and afterward studied in the schools of philosophy and theology, in Paris, France. Entered the ministry at Martinsburg—now West Virginia—and became Bishop of Richmond, in 1841, and of Wheeling in 1860. He was active in every work of education, and Mount De Chantal College is a monument to his memory. He died at Wheeling July 23, 1874.

8. Appointment of Commissioners.—In order that an equitable and satisfactory solution of the vexed question might be reached, the two States of Ohio and Virginia, in 1847 appointed a Commission consisting of three members from each, the duty of which was "to settle all questions of boundary between the two States." Those appointed by Ohio were Thomas Ewing, John Brough and James Collier; those named by Virginia were William C. Rives, William Greene and George W. Thompson.

9. Meeting of the Commissioners.—These gentlemen met in the City of Washington in the early part of January, 1848, and adjourned on the 26th of the same month without having agreed upon terms of adjustment. West Virginia now stands in the place of Virginia as to all questions depending upon the validity of Virginia's titles, and involving the jurisdiction of more than two hundred miles of the course of the Ohio river.



GEORGE W. THOMPSON.*

George W. Thompson, the last-named commissioner

*George W. Thompson was born in Ohio county, now in West Virginia, May 14th, 1806, and was educated at Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, from which institution he was graduated in 1824. He studied law at St. Clairsville, Ohio. In 1837 he became a resident of Wheeling, of which city he was appointed postmaster in 1838. In 1844, President Polk appointed him United States District Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, which position he filled for four years. In 1851 he was chosen to Congress from the Wheeling District and while occupy-

on the part of Virginia, made a thorough and extended examination of the subject and the result of his researches has been published.

10. Buffalo Academy.—Buffalo Academy was established by a joint stock company in 1849, at Buffalo, Putnam county, the oldest town on the Great Kanawha river between Charleston and Point Pleasant. The first principal was George Rosetter, A.M., afterwards of Marietta College, Ohio. It continued to be a flourishing institution until after the beginning of the Civil War, when it was occupied alternately as a barracks by the soldiers of the Federal and Confederate armies, and during that time all the furniture and apparatus were destroyed. After the war the property was deeded to the Board of Education of Buffalo district for public school purposes.

11. The Center of Population.—For five decades the Center of Population of the United States was in West Virginia. In 1810 it was at Harper's Ferry, in Jefferson county; in 1820 it was near Wardensville, in Hardy county; in 1830 it had moved westward and rested on Canaan Mountain, in Tucker county; in 1840 it had moved still farther west and was situated in Harrison county, about ten miles nearly due south from Clarksburg; in 1850 it had again changed its position and was located on the south bank of the Little Kanawha river in Wood county; but when an-

ing & son is that body, he was elected judge of the Circuit Court. In 1861 he retired to private life and devoted himself to literary pursuits. Among his published works are "The Living Forces," and "The Administration of Good and Evil." He died at his home near Wheeling, February 28th, 1885.

other decade had passed away, this point had moved beyond the western limit of our State, and was situated about twenty miles north of Portsmouth, Ohio.

12. The Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1850.—The dissatisfaction of the people with the provisions of the Constitution which had been framed in 1829-30, continued to increase, especially in the counties then existing and now comprised within West Virginia. In compliance with the popular demand, the General Assembly, on the 9th of March, 1850, passed an act providing for submitting to the people the question of calling a Convention to revise the Constitution. The vote in the following April resulted in favor of the Convention and the election of delegates took place in August ensuing.

13. The Work of the Convention.—The Convention assembled on the 14th of October, 1850. The counties west of the mountains sent their best men to occupy seats in that august body, which contained some of the best minds of Virginia. After an extended session the work was done and it brought a redress of many grievances. The Right of Suffrage was extended, taxation was rendered more equitable, and the basis of representation was so re-



JOSEPH JOHNSON *

*Joseph Johnson, the only man ever chosen to fill the gubernatorial chair of Virginia from the west side of the Alleghany

modeled as to secure to the western part of the State more nearly equal representation in the halls of legislation, and it now seemed that harmony would henceforth exist between the eastern and western parts of the State. The office of Governor, which had been previously elective by the Assembly, was now made elective by the people and at the first State election after the adoption of the constitution, Joseph Johnson, of Harrison county, was elected Governor. He was the only person ever chosen from that part of the State west of the mountains to fill that high office in Virginia.

14. Navigation on the Monongahela River.—The Virginia Assembly, in 1793, passed an act for the clearing and extending of navigation on the Monongahela and West Fork rivers. Before the year 1820, several steamers had ascended the Monongahela some distance but the first to reach Morgantown was the

Mountain, was born December 10th, 1785, in Orange county, New York. The father died when Joseph was but five years of age and in 1804, the mother, with her fatherless children, came to Bridgeport, Harrison county, now in West Virginia, where Joseph engaged in farm labor. He was a student, availing himself of every opportunity for self-improvement; he read every book that came into his hands, and attended the rude schools of that day. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and was elected a member of the Assembly in 1815. In 1823 he was chosen a member of Congress, and re-elected for different terms between that date and 1830. In that year he was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention and while serving therein was elected Governor by the General Assembly. The new Constitution made the office of Governor elective by the people and he was by them elected to that office in 1832. He died at his home at Bridgeport, February 2nd, 1872, in the eighty-seventh year of his age.

"Reindeer," on Sunday, April 29th, 1826. The first steamboat that reached Fairmont was the "Globe," on the 11th day of February, 1850, and its appearance at the place created great excitement among the people. In 1852 the steamer, "Thomas P. Ray," made frequent trips on the river but navigation was not firmly established until the Federal Government completed the system of locks and dams which now insures navigation throughout the year as far up as Morgantown.

15. Two Valuable Books Added to Pioneer Literature.—In the year 1851, Wills de Hass published at Wheeling, a book of several hundred pages entitled "History of the Early Settlements and Indian Wars of Western Virginia, Previous to 1795." This book contained several valuable documents pertaining to the French occupancy of the Ohio Valley. In addition to the historical text, there were a number of biographical sketches of distinguished frontiersmen. In 1859 J. G. Jacob published at Wellsburg, the "Life and Times of Patrick Gass," to which he added much valuable matter concerning the early history of West Virginia.

16. Insurrection at Harper's Ferry.—The intelligence that went out from Harper's Ferry on October 17th, 1859, sent a thrill of terror through Virginia and astounded the whole Nation. A few months previous to this, John Brown and his two sons, Oliver and Watson, having assumed the name of Anderson, leased a farm in Maryland a few miles from Harper's Ferry, the site of the United States Armory. Arms